

WCPA MARINE/WWF INTERNATIONAL
International Marine Protected Area Management Effectiveness Initiative (2000-2003)

WORKSHOP REPORT

MPA Management Effectiveness Indicator Workshop
Chichiriviche, Venezuela – October 29th-November 2nd, 2001

OVERALL PROJECT GOALS and OBJECTIVES

IUCN WCPA-Marine and WWF International have launched an initiative to improve the management of marine protected areas (MPA) by providing managers, planners and other decision-makers with methods for assessing the effectiveness of MPA sites and of national systems of MPAs. This initiative will build on the accomplishments of the WCPA Management Effectiveness Task Force (METF), especially its recent publication and on-going field testing of generic guidelines for evaluating the management effectiveness of protected areas, and apply this work to MPAs.

The project consists of four main phases:

Phase I	(1999-2000)	Project start up
Phase II	(2001)	DESIGN indicators
Phase III	(2002)	TEST indicators and guidelines
Phase IV	(2003)	IMPLEMENT guidelines and PROVIDE tool to MPAs

The main objectives and conservation outcomes of the initiative are to:

- 1) develop specific indicators and guidelines for MPA managers to evaluate the effectiveness of their sites;
- 2) design pilot projects and field test the MPA management effectiveness indicators and guidelines; and
- 3) increase awareness and use of monitoring and evaluation in the management of MPAs.

PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP

The purpose of the workshop was to select appropriate indicators for assessing the effectiveness of MPA management goals and objectives. The MPA Management Effectiveness Indicator Workshop was convened October 29th – November 2nd 2001 in Chichiriviche, Venezuela. The meeting was sponsored by the World Commission on Protected Areas – Marine (WCPA-Marine), WWF International and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Ocean Service, International Program Office, and hosted by Fundación para la Defensa de la Naturaleza (FUDENA).

OUTPUTS

There were two main products of the workshop:

- 1) A list of biophysical, socioeconomic and governance indicators linked to MPA goals and objectives (*see Appendix I*)
- 2) Profiles of each indicator that provide a range of information, such as monitoring techniques, types of MPAs and ecosystems it can be applied to, and references.

The indicators and profiles will be incorporated into guidelines on assessing management effectiveness of MPAs.

HOW THE INDICATORS WERE SELECTED

Prior to the workshop, a survey was done of existing goals and objectives of MPAs throughout the world. These were adapted or expanded to include the full range of possible goals and objectives an MPA may have. A review of journals, manuals, and projects was done to identify indicators that could be used to assess the effectiveness of those MPA goals and objectives. Based on this review, draft matrices of biophysical, socioeconomic and governance indicators linked to MPA goals and objectives were produced for experts to review and evaluate at the workshop.

Workshop participants were divided into three working groups tasked to identify and evaluate the draft matrices of MPA goals, objectives and biophysical/socioeconomic/governance indicators. The approach taken at the workshop emphasized the development of indicators tied to specific management goals and objectives. Therefore the suite of indicators could be applied to any MPA, depending on its specific goals and objectives and further refined for a specific type of MPA or ecosystem.

During the workshop the participants reviewed and revised these sets of goals, objectives, and indicators to ensure that:

- the goals were visionary, relatively general and brief
- the objectives were impact oriented, measurable, achievable within a specific period of time, specific and practical
- the indicators were measurable, precise, consistent, and sensitive

Once the list of indicators were revised, the participants then evaluated each indicator to determine the most effective and priority indicators based on four criteria:

- Relevance (Does the indicator directly measure the objective?)
- Ability to measure (How easily can the indicator be measured?)
- Effectiveness (What is the combined relevance and ability to measure of the indicator?)
- Cost (What are the relative expenses (money, time, human capacity, effort, equipment?)

After the evaluation, a total of 57 priority indicators were selected by the working groups with the following breakdown; biophysical: 16, socioeconomic: 18, and governance: 33. Participants compiled detailed information profiles for each priority indicator, including information on; how the indicator is measured, ecosystems the indicator is applicable to, types of MPAs applicable to, and examples of use of indicator.

THE PARTICIPANTS

The participants included 32 experts on marine protected areas, from 17 countries, and from a range of organizations, including; governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, university and independent consultants. Participant expertise ranged from MPA management, to marine conservation, to indicator-development (*see Appendix 2: List of Participants*).

NEXT STEPS

Draft Guidelines:

The indicators developed at the workshop will be incorporated into draft guidelines on MPA management effectiveness. The guidelines will build on assessments designed by other, in

particular the WCPA Management Effectiveness Framework. A small working group will develop and write the draft guidelines.

Pilot Projects:

The draft guidelines and indicators will be tested in pilot projects. Criteria for selecting pilot projects have been drafted and were discussed with the participants of the Indicator Workshop. Identifying pilot project sites is currently underway.

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APPENDIX I: Governance, Biophysical and Socioeconomic matrices of Goals, Objectives and Indicators. (see following pages).